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January 28, 2004

The Honorable Maura D. Corrigan
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Michigan
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909-7552

Dear Chief Justice Corrigan,

The Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation announced the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition at the United States Supreme Court on October 11. The competition is designed to encourage outstanding scholarship "promoting the ideals of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism within the legal profession," the core mission of the American Inns of Court.

Chief Justice Burger was a lifelong advocate of legal ethics and civility and the "founding father" of the American Inns of Court movement. The American Inns of Court is a national association of judges, lawyers and professors of law and their students who endeavor to maintain the highest standards of the legal profession.

The American Inns of Court invites judges, lawyers, scholars and other authors to participate in the competition by submitting an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic of their choice addressing issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism.

The winning entry will be decided by a panel of judges comprised of Dean Stephen Gillers of New York University School of Law; Professor Geoffrey C. Hazard of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Professor Nancy J. Moore of Boston University School of Law.

The author of the winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000 and the winning essay will be published in a respected legal journal. The Warren E. Burger Prize will be presented to the author at the American Inns of Court annual Celebration of Excellence at the United States Supreme Court. Other submitted works will also be eligible for law journal publication or featured in *The Bench*, the national magazine of the American Inns of Court.

Complete rules of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition are enclosed. Additional copies may be downloaded from the American Inns of Court Website, www.innsofcourt.org.

Sincerely,

Randy J. Holland
President

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OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Writing Competition

The American Inns of Court sponsors the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition to encourage thoughtful consideration of the practical application of the highest principles of professionalism in the American legal community. Through this competition, significant contributions to the body of scholarship in the areas of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism will be recognized and rewarded.

RULES

TOPIC

The author should address one or more aspects of legal excellence, civility, ethics or professionalism within the legal profession. The selected issue(s) should be of contemporary significance with clear relevance to the legal community at large.

DATES

Deadline for submission of materials: June 15, 2004

Judging complete: September 1, 2004

Presentation: October 16, 2004

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submissions must be original and unpublished works of 10,000 – 25,000 words including footnotes.

Either independent or collaborative submissions are allowed. All participants in drafting the final submission must be designated as co-authors. Research assistants shall be acknowledged by name in an appropriate footnote.

Each author or co-author may participate in only one entry per year.

A complete submission will include a completed cover sheet, one original copy of the paper, and a 3.5" diskette containing both the cover sheet and paper in Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect format for PC. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submissions shall not be stapled or bound. A single binder clip should secure the cover page and the article.

COVER PAGE

All blanks should be typed or legibly printed. The original, signed cover page should be attached to the submission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Submissions should be addressed to:

Dick Page
Director of Development
American Inns of Court
1229 King Street, Second Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For information or questions, please contact Mr. Page by phone at (703) 684-3590 ext. 110 or by E-mail to dpage@innsofcourt.org

STYLE REQUIREMENTS

Authors should submit entries on 8½ x 11 white paper, double-spaced, 1" margins. Use footnotes, not endnotes. The body and footnotes will be of the same font – Times New Roman (or equivalent), 12 point.

Only the first page of the paper will contain the name of the article. It shall be in bold face, centered in the first line of the paper. The author's name or other identifying marks or references must not appear anywhere in the body of the paper. Do not include page numbers.

Guidelines for the body of text should generally conform to any good style guide, such as The Chicago Manual of Style.

Footnotes and citations should conform to The Bluebook – A Uniform System of Citation, 16th Edition – 1996.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions will be received, registered and checked for completeness. Cover page information will be entered into a database and the manuscript will be assigned a tracking number, which will be used to identify it during the entire review and judging process.

Incomplete submissions and submissions received after June 15, 2004 will not be considered.

Authors will be notified via E-mail (usually 7-10 days) that their submissions have been received.

The judging will be completed on or before September 1, 2004 and all authors will be promptly notified.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Entries will be reviewed according to a uniform system of evaluation. Review criteria will include:

1. Incorporation of the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and civility in the paper.
2. Perspective and objectivity.
3. Organization in a clear and logical manner.
4. Appeal and persuasiveness.
5. Presentation and quality of literary construction.

RESTRICTIONS

The Warren E. Burger Writing competition is open to all authors, scholars, judges and lawyers. Membership or affiliation with the American Inns of Court is not a requirement for consideration.

Current and former Trustees and employees of the American Inns of Court, and their immediate families may not serve as authors or co-authors of papers submitted.

The American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Writing Competition

COVER PAGE

Submitted By: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Title: _____

Word Count: _____

Co-Authors: _____

Synopsis (200 word maximum)

I certify that the enclosed entry is an original work of the author(s) shown; that the enclosed work has not been published or accepted for publication and that I have not assigned or agreed to assign the copyright to the enclosed entry.

If this submission is selected for publication, I certify that I am able to grant publication rights to the American Inns of Court or its designated publisher and hereby grant such rights.

I have read the rules and guidelines of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition and agree to abide by them and the decision of the judging committee.

SUBMITTED:

Author's Signature

Date